

to see that these laws in these bills will be enacted. I personally plan to keep fighting for welfare moms and their families.

#### WELFARE REFORM BILL NEEDS REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WOOLSEY] for the way in which she has worked to put welfare reform back on the 105th Congress' map and to leave no stone unturned and to put on notice this Congress that reform of the welfare system has yet to come.

"If at first you do not succeed," the cliché goes. Well, we have not succeeded and what we are going to do is try harder. The welfare reform bill needs reform. The only question is when are we going to do it. The flaws that are revealing themselves are already legion.

Congress has taken a wait for the crisis attitude. That is of course the way we do business in a number of areas. When it comes to children, particularly given all the pro-family rhetoric that adorns this hall every day, one would think that we must move before the crisis.

The gentlewoman from California, who is cochairing with me a task force to introduce an omnibus bill of reforms, has given an indication of the kinds of bills the omnibus bill will contain. Rather than repeat more about those bills, let me give other examples as well.

Let us do first things first. The President has offered forth 10,000 jobs he controls in his executive agencies for welfare recipients. It is Congress' move now. What will we do?

I have a bill that I have introduced on March 12 that would encourage every Member to offer a full-time job in her office to a welfare recipient. In order to accommodate this, the House would increase staff allotments by one, but not our budget. Many Members could then hire a welfare recipient. They might not otherwise be able to do so, especially Members who come from districts that are broadly spaced through rural areas or large States.

But if we said to the Member, or if the Member knows that she has the money but needs the staff member, at no cost to the government, we could do our part. I do not see how in the world we can continue to monitor welfare reform if we do not step up the way the President has. We must lead by example. If we mean it, we have to do it first.

I expect that the omnibus bill will contain a number of correctives. Let me give examples.

I will be introducing an anti-displacement bill. There is a perverse effect here, Mr. Speaker. What we are

finding is that people who have gone out and gotten their own low-paying jobs are being displaced by welfare recipients. If that is not a perverse effect, I do not know what is.

Two similarly situated youngsters in the District of Columbia gets pregnant at 16. One goes and finds her own job in the hotel industry and the other sits at home. Maybe she sits at home because she does not have a babysitter, maybe she does it for other reasons. But the fact is there is an incentive for employers to hire the young woman who went out and got her own job, so the employer displaces the woman who went out and got it herself. We cannot have that. It is not what anybody intended.

I will be introducing an anti-displacement bill so that similarly situated people will not feel that I have to go get on welfare in order to get a job; that is the way to do it. The message is go out and get your own job, and only if you cannot get one should you be on welfare at all.

Mr. Speaker, I have a bill that pertains to the District of Columbia, which does not have a State but has a State quota which it cannot possibly meet. By 2002 every State has to have 50 percent of all its families in work or work activities. The State of New York or the State of California or the State of Wyoming, for that matter, will gather them from all over the State. No other State has to gather that whole 50 percent from a central city. It cannot be done.

My bill would give the District no preference. It would simply say that using a formula, which we extract from what other inner cities have done, we say that the District has to fill that number and not a number that is given to an entire State.

I will be introducing a bill to exempt relative caretakers from the 20 percent rule. Twenty percent of cost can be exempted from work activity. Surely we do not mean to say that a grandmother has to go out and find a job. These are effects that are beginning to come through. These are reforms that need to be done. I expect to do so.

#### CELEBRATING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday we will observe Mother's Day, a day when we pause to celebrate the role of women in the life of American families. While celebrating the roles of women we also essentially celebrate infant and children, the true symbol of motherhood.

It is, therefore, appropriate, in light of this celebration, that we examine the Federal programs that affect women, infants and children. It is appropriate at this time when we revere mothers, their infants, their children,

the foundation of American families, that we examine the impact of our relevant action in Congress.

The most relevant action is the current debate over funding for the nutritional program for women, infants and children, the WIC program. Mr. Speaker, WIC works. The data shows that for every dollar spent on the WIC program, between \$2 and \$4 are saved in health care costs, yet some 180,000 women and children face the loss of this vital support that has been proven effective because some would imbalance the lives of thousands of women, infants and children in order to balance the book of a few.

On April 24 of this year the majority on the House Committee on Appropriations voted to provide only \$38 million in special supplementary funds for the WIC program. The President had asked for \$76 million as a compromise for the \$100 million in his original request.

If the supplemental funding is not provided at the level requested, thousands of current participants will be dropped from the program. The shortfall in funding could not be anticipated. Milk prices, for example, have grown faster than was projected. Consequently, program costs have grown. The additional \$38 million needed to reach the \$76 million request is a sound investment in the future of our Nation.

The WIC program provides nutritional assistance to poor women, infants and children up to the age of 5 who are at nutritional risk. This assistance, as I indicated, has proven to be effective in reducing low birth weight babies, infant mortality, and child anemia.

WIC program funding has also been cited as a source of improving early learning abilities in children. In short, Mr. Speaker, the WIC program really pays for itself and advantages America.

Of the 104 million women in America within the age range of childbearing, some 74 million are mothers. On average, these women bear close to three children during their lifetime. They produce the children who become the laborers and leaders for the future. They produce the children who become the Members of Congress generation after generation.

Mother's Day, therefore, is not about a few flowers, a box of candy or a restaurant dinner. Mother's Day is about honoring and respecting those persons, the women of America, who play a significant role in the life of our Nation.

It seems to me that the best way to celebrate Mother's Day is to honor all mothers. Poor mothers have produced productive children. The WIC program is not charity, the WIC program is a chance, a chance for our children who happen to be born in poverty to have sufficient nurturing to carry the oppression of poverty to the opportunity that America is offered. It is the chance any child has when a healthy start is available to them.

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Mr. Speaker, the WIC Program works. Let us make it work for all of